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Attorneys for Plaintiff  
 United States of America

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Plaintiff,

v.

JOSE ELIAS CAMACHO-MELENDEZ,

Defendant.

Criminal Case No. 08CR0724-WQH

IN LIMINE DATE: May 19,2008  
 TIME: 2:00 p.m.  
 TRIAL DATE: May 20, 2008  
 TIME: 9:00 a.m.

UNITED STATES' RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION  
 TO DEFENDANT'S MOTIONS IN LIMINE TO:  
 (A) PRECLUDE EVIDENCE UNDER 404(B);  
 (B) ORDER PRODUCTION OF GRAND  
 JURY TRANSCRIPTS;  
 (C) GRANT ATTORNEY CONDUCTED  
 VOIR DIRE;  
 (D) EXCLUDE EVIDENCE OF "MUG  
 SHOT" PHOTOS;  
 (E) EXCLUDE PROPOSED EXPERT  
 TESTIMONY WITHOUT NOTICE;  
 (F) ORDER PRODUCTION OF TECS;  
 (G) EXCLUDE TECS FROM TRIAL;  
 (H) PRECLUDE TESTIMONY BY  
 MATERIAL WITNESS; and  
 (I) EXCLUDE EVIDENCE OF MATERIAL  
 WITNESS CONDITION

COMES NOW, the plaintiff, the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, by and through its counsel,  
 KAREN P. HEWITT, United States Attorney, and LAWRENCE A. CASPER, Assistant United States  
 Attorney, and hereby files its Motions in Limine. These Motions are based upon the files and records  
 of the case together with the attached statement of facts and memorandum of points and authorities.

**I****STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

A federal grand jury on March 12, 2008 handed up a four-count Indictment charging Defendant Jose Elias Camacho-Melendez with: (1) two counts of bringing in illegal aliens for financial gain in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii); and (2) two counts of bringing in illegal aliens without presentation in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(2)(B)(iii). On March 13, 2008 Defendant entered a not guilty plea before the Magistrate Judge.

On April 1, 2008, Defendant filed motions to: (1) compel discovery; (2) preserve evidence; (3) dismiss indictment due to improper grand jury instructions; and (4) leave to file further motions. On April 7, 2008, the United States responded to each of the above-described motions and filed its motion for reciprocal discovery. On April 21, 2008, the Court granted the United States' motion for reciprocal discovery and granted Defendant's motion to preserve evidence. The Court deferred ruling on the Defendant's other motions and set a hearing on motions in limine for May 19, 2008.

**II****STATEMENT OF FACTS****A. Primary Inspection**

On February 27, 2008, at approximately 4:20 a.m., a 1987 white Ford F-250 pickup truck bearing Baja, California, Mexico license plate (BL16919) approached primary lane 6 at the Calexico, California West Port of Entry. Defendant Jose Elias Camacho-Melendez (Defendant) was the driver and sole visible occupant of the vehicle. Customs and Border Protection Officer Fonseca, the primary officer, was handed the Defendant's border crossing card (DSP-150) and was given a negative customs declaration by him. CBPO Fonseca questioned Defendant regarding his destination and ownership of the vehicle. Defendant claimed he was going to Las Palmas, a swap meet in Calexico, California to buy washers and claimed that the truck belonged to his company.

Defendant claimed that he had worked for the company for a few months and had crossed before. CBPO Fonseca told Defendant that he would need to pay a user fee of \$10.75. Defendant mentioned that he had previously attempted to buy a one-time decal sticker at the Calexico East Port of Entry so that he would not have to pay each time he crossed into the United States but that no one at Calexico East

1 could help him. CBPO Fonseca referred the vehicle to the secondary lot for further inspection and for  
2 the user fee.

3 **B. Secondary Inspection**

4 At secondary, the vehicle was inspected by CBPO Justin VanArsdall; he observed the vehicle  
5 enter the secondary lot and examined the referral slip on the vehicle. CBPO VanArsdall obtained a  
6 negative customs declaration from Defendant. Defendant told CBPO VanArsdall that he was going to  
7 buy washers and that the vehicle belonged to the company for which he worked. CBPO VanArsdall  
8 asked the Defendant to open the hood. Defendant unlatched the hood release from inside the cab.  
9 Immediately upon unlatching the hood and before it was actually opened by the CBPO, Defendant  
10 proceeded southbound toward the vehicle secondary lobby area where the cashiers office – the location  
11 to pay the user fee – is located. While Defendant was proceeding in that direction, CBPO VanArsdall  
12 opened the hood of the vehicle and immediately noticed two bodies inside of the engine compartment.  
13 CBPO VanArsdall immediately pursued the Defendant and caught up with him in the vehicle secondary  
14 lobby just inside the doors. CBPO VanArsdall conducted an immediate patdown of Defendant and  
15 escorted him into the vehicle secondary office. CBPO VanArsdall completed a pat down of Defendant  
16 in a private cell which was witnessed by CBPO Supervisor Olivas; that pat down was negative.

17 CBPO VanArsdall returned to the vehicle and CBP Canine Officer Brent Pyburn, who had  
18 approached the vehicle with his canine after CBPO VanArsdall had pursued the Defendant into the  
19 vehicle secondary lobby but before VanArsdall returned, informed VanArsdall that his narcotics detector  
20 dog had alerted to the vehicle. Two females, who were subsequently determined to be undocumented  
21 aliens, were seen inside the engine compartment lying on top of the fender wells. The female on the  
22 driver's side had nothing separating her from the engine. The female on the passenger side of the engine  
23 compartment had a small piece of plywood between her and the engine.

24 CBP Canine Officer Pyburn and CBPO VanArsdall removed a female later identified as Audelia  
25 Torres Gutierrez from the passenger side of the engine compartment. Upon removing her, CBPO  
26 VanArsdall asked her if she was alright in both Spanish and English; she just stared blankly back at him.  
27 She was unable to stand on her own and was perspiring heavily. The shoes that she was wearing were  
28 smoking from the heels and appeared to be melted and burning as were the leather uppers of her shoes.

1 Canine Officer Pyburn removed her shoes and she was carried to the vehicle secondary office where she  
2 was given some water. The female on the driver's side of the passenger compartment, who was later  
3 identified as Angelica Reyes Valenzuela, was also removed. She was cramped into an extremely tight  
4 fetal position and had her head between the master brake cylinder and the inner fender, with her feet  
5 against the radiator. She had no shoes on her feet but instead had only socks. She had to be assisted  
6 from her position as well.

7 Defendant was subsequently read his Miranda rights and invoked. Defendant had \$41 dollars  
8 in U.S. currency and no Mexican currency in his possession upon arrest.

9 **C. Defendant's Criminal Record**

10 At this time, the Government is not aware of any criminal convictions or arrests of Defendant.

11 **D. Statements of Material Witnesses**

12 Each of the two aliens smuggled in the engine compartment provided a statement admitting to  
13 being a Mexican citizen with no legal right to enter or remain in the United States. Each admitted to  
14 being smuggled for financial gain. Neither was able to identify the Defendant through a photo line up.

15 **E. Criminal History of Defendant**

16 The Defendant has no known criminal convictions.

17 **III**

18 **ARGUMENT**

19 **A. THE COURT SHOULD ADMIT EVIDENCE THAT DEFENDANT CONTENDS**  
20 **IS 404(B)**

21 Although the United States' motions in limine addressed, in detailed fashion, the pertinent  
22 evidence that Defendant now contends is 404(B), the United States briefly sets forth below the factual  
23 circumstances surrounding this evidence, the notice given by the United States, and the relevant  
24 materials that were provided to the Defendant in discovery in this case. Defendant's motion in limine  
25 mischaracterizes the factual context or else, due to the timing of the filings in this case, the Defendant  
26 had not yet reviewed the materials forwarded by the United States on May 5, 2008 when his motions  
27 in limine were filed.

28 On May 5, 2008 – consistent with this Court's instructions during the April 21, 2008 hearing

1 – the United States provided written notice both by letter (see Appendix 1, Letter from AUSA  
2 Lawrence A. Casper to Kasha Pollreisz, Esq., Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc., dated May 5,  
3 2008) and in the United States’ motions in limine (at pages 4-13) of evidence that the United States  
4 believed might arguably be considered Rule 404(B) evidence. On the same day, counsel for the United  
5 States turned over 39 pages of Treasury Enforcement Communication Systems (TECS) discovery to  
6 the Defendant (Discovery at pages 179-218). The United States specifically informed the Defense that,  
7 “although the Government does not necessarily believe that TECS data constitutes “other act” evidence  
8 under Federal Rule of Evidence 404(B), in an abundance of caution, this letter will serve as notice that  
9 the Government, at trial, may introduce testimony and other evidence regarding TECS data.” See  
10 Appendix 1. Moreover, the United States informed the Defendant that “this evidence relates to  
11 Defendant’s crossing history at the United States-Mexico border as well as the crossing history of  
12 vehicles driven and/or registered to Defendant.” See Appendix 1. In addition, in its motion in limine,  
13 the United States advised that, “the fact that the Defendant crossed from Mexico into the United States  
14 in the same vehicle at issue in this case two days earlier as well as his other recent crossings in this or  
15 other vehicles may be offered as evidence that is ‘inextricably intertwined’” with this case.

16 The United States also advised that, although it did not believe that she was an expert witness  
17 under Federal Rule of Evidence 16(a)(1)(G), Customs and Border Protection Officer Diana Contreras  
18 might provide evidence/testimony regarding TECS data at trial. The letter sent by counsel for the  
19 United States specifically advised the Defendant that Officer Contreras would testify “regarding the  
20 maintenance and generation of TECS data and will explain the TECS data pertinent to this case.” See  
21 Appendix 1.

22 As detailed in the United States’ motion in limine (at pages 4-13), irrespective of whether this  
23 TECS evidence is considered to be “inextricably intertwined” or considered under Rule 404(B), it  
24 should, nevertheless, be admitted.

25 **B. DEFENDANT’S REQUEST FOR GRAND JURY TRANSCRIPTS SHOULD BE**  
26 **DENIED**

27 Defendant requests that the United States turn over grand jury transcripts in advance of trial.  
28 The United States will comply with 18 U.S.C. § 3500 and Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 26.2.

1 The United States does not intend to call any witness that testified before the grand jury in its case-in-  
 2 chief. Thus, this request appears to be moot. Defendant has made no showing of “particularized need”  
 3 for grand jury transcripts in this case and thus the veil of secrecy surrounding grand jury proceedings  
 4 should not be pierced.

5 “A trial judge should order disclosure of grand jury transcripts only when the party seeking  
 6 them has demonstrated that a particularized need exists . . . which outweighs the policy of secrecy.”  
 7 In re Grand Jury Proceedings, 62 F.3d 1175, 1178 (9th Cir. 1995) (citation omitted). The typical  
 8 “particularized needs” include impeachment, refreshing the recollection of, or testing the credibility  
 9 of witnesses who testify at trial. Douglas Oil Co. v. Petrol Stops Northwest, 441 U.S. 211, 222 n.12  
 10 (1979). A district court does not abuse its discretion in refusing to order the disclosure of grand jury  
 11 transcripts for a witness who does not testify at trial. United States v. Daras, 462 F.2d 1361, 1362  
 12 (9th Cir. 1972) (per curiam). In fact, the Ninth Circuit has specifically found that a defendant’s request  
 13 for grand jury transcripts in order to “determine whether the testimony of law enforcement officers  
 14 [who testified before the grand jury] improperly summarized the testimony of other agents” does not  
 15 constitute a particularized need. United States v. Walczak, 783 F.2d 852, 857 (9th Cir. 1986). The  
 16 United States will, however, comply with its Jencks Act obligations. Defendant’s motion for grand  
 17 jury transcripts should be denied.

18 **C. THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT OPPOSE ATTORNEY CONDUCTED VOIR-DIRE**  
 19

20 The United States has no objection to properly limited attorney-conducted voir-dire, provided  
 21 it is afforded the same amount of time provided to Defendant.

22 **D. THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO INTRODUCE THE**  
 23 **PHOTOGRAPHS OF DEFENDANT TAKEN ON THE DAY OF HER ARREST**  
**UNLESS THEY BECOME RELEVANT**

24 Rule 401 defines “relevant evidence” as:

25 evidence having any tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence  
 26 to the determination of the action more probable or less probable that it would be  
 without the evidence.

27 Fed. R. Evid. 401. Rule 402 states that evidence “which is not relevant is not admissible.” Fed. R.  
 28 Evid. 402. At the moment, it is unclear why Defendant’s photograph would be relevant. However, if

1 it becomes relevant, the United States should be permitted to introduce it (i.e., to establish his identity).

2 As to the material witnesses, however, their photographs taken on the day of this smuggling  
3 venture are, of course, highly relevant and not unduly prejudicial; accordingly, the United States should  
4 be permitted to use those photographs during trial. In fact, the placement of the material witnesses  
5 within the vehicle and their physical condition is significant given that Defendant is expected to  
6 contend that he had no knowledge of the material witnesses in the hood of the vehicle in which he was  
7 the driver and sole visible occupant at the time of the crossing. Nor is the substantial probative value  
8 of those photographs outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice in this case. The material witness  
9 photographs should be admitted.

10 **E. THE UNITED STATES WILL PROVIDE APPROPRIATE NOTICE TO**  
11 **DEFENDANT OF ITS EXPERT WITNESSES**

12 As detailed above, the United States has already provided notice of testimony regarding TECS  
13 although not believed to qualify as expert testimony under Rule 16(a)(1)(G); that notice informed  
14 Defendant of the individual through whom such TECS would be brought into evidence and the nature of  
15 that evidence which is contained within materials already provided to Defendant in discovery.  
16 Moreover, the United States has, by letter, also given notice that it intends to call an automotive  
17 mechanic to testify regarding the modifications made to the vehicle in this case to create the  
18 compartments in which the material witnesses were located under the hood, the impact those  
19 modifications had on the operation of the vehicle, and how certain of those modifications would have  
20 manifested themselves to a driver or occupant of the vehicle. See Letter dated May 12, 2008  
21 (Appendix 2, hereto).

22 Accordingly, there is no basis upon which to preclude the testimony of these witnesses.

23 **F. THE COURT SHOULD DENY DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO ORDER**  
24 **PRODUCTION OF ANY TECS OR OTHER COMPUTER-GENERATED HITS**  
25 **RELATED TO DEFENDANT OR THE TRUCK THAT HE WAS DRIVING ON**  
**THE DAY OF HIS ARREST**

26 To obtain discovery under Rule 16, a defendant must make a prima facie showing of  
27 materiality. United States v. Little, 753 F.2d 1420, 1445 (9th Cir. 1984); United States v. Cadet, 727  
28 F.2d 1453, 1468 (9th Cir. 1984). A defendant must make a specific request for an item and articulate



1 how it is helpful to the defense. See, United States v. Olano, 62 F.3d 1180, 1203 (9th Cir. 1995).  
 2 Defendant must show “more than that the [item] bears some abstract logical relationship to the issues  
 3 in the case. . . There must be some indication that the pretrial disclosure of the [item] would . . . enable[]  
 4 the defendant significantly to alter the quantum of proof in his favor.” United States v. Ross, 511 F.2d  
 5 757, 762-63 (5th Cir. 1975).

6 Preliminarily, the United States notes that it has already produced the TECS crossings  
 7 concerning the vehicle used by the Defendant to cross on the day of his arrest. Defendant, however,  
 8 without anything more than a claim that this information somehow bears an abstract relationship to the  
 9 issues in this case, now seeks to require the United States to produce TECS records relating to “the first  
 10 seven cars and drivers in front of Mr. Camacho-Melendez and the first seven cars and drivers behind  
 11 Mr. Camacho-Melendez” on the date of his arrest. Defendant’s speculation that somehow this  
 12 information might be helpful to his defense is nothing more than a fishing expedition. The mere fact  
 13 that defendant may be able to craft a more consistent story given access to possible impeachment  
 14 evidence does not make the documents themselves relevant or material. United States v. Gonzalez-  
 15 Rincon, 36 F.3d 859, 865 (9th Cir. 1994); see United States v. Gleason, 616 F.2d 2, 25 (2d Cir. 1979)  
 16 (The Government is not obligated by Rule 16(a) to anticipate every possible defense, assume what the  
 17 defendant’s trial testimony . . . will be, and then furnish him with otherwise irrelevant material that  
 18 might conflict with his testimony.”). Nor does Rule 16 require the Government to disclose rebuttal  
 19 evidence intended for use against a line of defense at trial. See United States v. Delia, 944 F.2d 1010,  
 20 1017-18 (2d Cir. 1991)(government is not required to disclose rebuttal evidence which it intends to use  
 21 against a proposed line of defense). Defendant has not made any showing that other TECS records will  
 22 be material to his defense. Accordingly, Defendant’s motion for these TECS records should be denied.

#### 23 24 **G. TECS EVIDENCE SHOULD BE PERMITTED AT TRIAL**

25 As detailed in Section III A above and at pages 4-13 of the United States’ motions in limine,  
 26 TECS evidence should be permitted at trial. To the extent Defendant contends that TECS is somehow  
 27 unreliable, such evidence goes to the weight and not the admissibility of the evidence. Defendant may  
 28 certainly endeavor to cross-examine the United States’ witness concerning any claimed reliability



1 issues; accordingly, his claims regarding lack of reliability certainly should not foreclose the United  
 2 States' ability to admit TECS evidence.

3 **H. CO-CONSPIRATOR STATEMENTS CONCERNING SMUGGLING AND**  
 4 **TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS ARE ADMISSIBLE UNDER RULE**  
 5 **801(d)(2)(E)**

6 Each of the material witnesses should be permitted to testify regarding her arrangements to be  
 7 smuggled into the United States and then transported to her ultimate destination. To the extent theses  
 8 arrangements and details include statements from Defendant's accomplices or the Defendant himself  
 9 in the smuggling venture, the Court should admit those statements under the co-conspirator exclusion  
 10 to the rule precluding hearsay.

11 An out of court statement offered for the truth of the matter asserted is normally considered  
 12 hearsay under Rule 801(c). However, under Rule 801(d)(2)(E), statements made by a coconspirator  
 13 of a party during the course and in furtherance of a conspiracy are non-hearsay. Such statements are  
 14 not hearsay and were deemed non-testimonial by the Supreme Court in Crawford v. Washington,  
 15 541 U.S. 36, 55 (2004). The Crawford decision specifically identifies co-conspirator statements as  
 16 non-testimonial, citing its prior decision in United States v. Bourjaily, 483 U.S. 171 (1987), in which  
 17 the Supreme Court held that even though the defendant had no opportunity to cross examine the  
 18 declarant at the time that he made the statements and the declarant was unavailable to testify at trial,  
 19 the admission of the declarant's statements against the defendant did not violate the Confrontation  
 20 Clause. Crawford, 541 U.S. at 56. The Supreme Court approved its prior holding regarding co-  
 21 conspirator statements, citing Bourjaily as an example of an earlier case that was consistent with the  
 22 principal that the Confrontation Clause permits the admission of non-testimonial statements in the  
 23 absence of a prior opportunity for cross examination. Crawford, 541 U.S. at 57. Several Circuits have  
 24 allowed such co-conspirator statements post-Crawford. See United States v. Cianci, 378 F.3d 71, 101-2  
 25 (1st Cir. 2004); United States v. Sagat, 377 F.3d 223, 229 (2nd Cir. 2004); United States v. Mickelson,  
 378 F.3d 810, 819-20 (8th Cir. 2004).

26 Co-conspirator statements are admissible under Rule 801(d)(2)(E) if the Government  
 27 demonstrates that (1) a conspiracy existed, (2) the defendant and the declarant were members of the  
 28 conspiracy, and (3) the statement was made during the course of and in furtherance of the conspiracy.  
United States v. Bourjaily, 483 U.S. 171 (1987); United States v. Peralta, 941 F.2d 1003, 1007 (9th

1 Cir. 1991), cert. denied, 503 U.S. 940 (1992). The existence of a conspiracy and defendant's  
 2 involvement in the conspiracy are questions of fact that must be resolved by the Court by a  
 3 preponderance of the evidence. Fed. R. Evid. 104; Bourjaily, supra, at 175. "Furtherance of a  
 4 conspiracy" is to be interpreted broadly. United States v. Manfre, 368 F.3d 832, 838 (8th Cir. 2004).

5 The Government is not required to charge the defendant with conspiracy, United States v.  
 6 Layton, 855 F.2d 1388 (1988), or charge the declarant as a co-defendant in any conspiracy in order to  
 7 admit co-conspirator statements. United States v. Jones, 542 F.2d 186 (4th Cir. 1976). Further, upon  
 8 joining the conspiracy, earlier statements made by co-conspirators after inception of the conspiracy  
 9 become admissible against the defendant. United States v. LeRoux, 738 F.2d 943, 949-950 (8th Cir.  
 10 1984). In United States v. United States Gypsum Co., 333 U.S. 364, 393 (1948), the Supreme Court  
 11 held that "the declarations and acts of various members, even though made prior to the adherence of  
 12 some to the conspiracy become admissible against all as declarations or acts of coconspirators in aid  
 13 of the conspiracy." In other words, a defendant who joined the conspiracy at a later date, took the  
 14 conspiracy as he found it. United States v. Hickey, 360 F.2d 127, 140 (7th Cir. 1966).

15 The Court may consider the content of the statements in determining whether the co-conspirator  
 16 statement is admissible. Bourjaily, 483 U.S. at 180. Further, once the Court has ruled that the  
 17 statement meets the evidentiary requirements for admission under 801(d)(2)(E), the Court need not  
 18 make an additional inquiry as to whether the declarant is unavailable or whether there is any  
 19 independent indicia of reliability. Id. at 182-184.

#### 20 1. Conspiracies Existed

21 In this case, the conspiracies consist of the efforts made by known and unknown persons,  
 22 including Defendant, the material witnesses, and any paying family member(s), to smuggle the material  
 23 witness into the United States and transport them to their destination within the United States. The  
 24 evidence of this conspiracy stems not only from the testimony of the material witnesses but the fact of  
 25 Defendant's arrest and the lack of documentation of the material witnesses.

#### 26 2. Defendant and the Declarants Were Members of the Conspiracy

27 The Government anticipates that the testimony of the material witnesses at trial will  
 28 demonstrate that each made the smuggling arrangements, including agreeing on a monetary amount.

1 As such, Defendant, each of the material witnesses, and the individuals they came into contact with  
 2 during the course of the offense were part of the conspiracy.

3 3. Co-conspirator Statements Were Made During the Course of, and  
 4 in Furtherance of, the Conspiracy

5 The co-conspirator statements that the Government contends are non-hearsay involve the  
 6 smuggling arrangements made on behalf of the material witnesses, including the financial arrangements  
 7 and any statements concerning their transportation from Mexico into the United States. The  
 8 Government asserts that no smuggling venture would have occurred at all if not for the anticipated  
 9 payments. Thus, the financial arrangements were an integral component of the smuggling conspiracy  
 10 and such statements were made in furtherance of the smuggling venture.

11 Moreover, even if the Court concluded that Defendant may have joined the conspiracy after the  
 12 material witnesses or their family members made the arrangements for the alien smuggling and  
 13 transportation, the statements are still admissible against Camacho-Melendez because the conspiracy  
 14 already existed when the statements were made. See United States Gypsum Co., 333 U.S. at 393;  
 15 LeRoux, 738 F.2d at 949-950; Hickey, 360 F.2d at 140.

16 As such, all statements regarding the financial arrangements and initial planning of the  
 17 smuggling venture made on behalf of the material witness should be admissible against Defendant.

18 4. The Court May Conditionally Admit Co-Conspirator Statements

19 Defendant may contend that this Court may not admit any statements until the Government lays  
 20 the proper foundation for the above-referenced elements. This position lacks merit. The district court  
 21 may, if needed, conditionally admit co-conspirator statements subject to a motion to strike if the  
 22 Government fails to establish the requisite foundation. United States v. Reed, 726 F.2d 570, 580 (9th  
 23 Cir. 1984); United States v. Loya, 807 F.2d 1483, 1490(9 th Cir. 1987).

24 I. THE MATERIAL WITNESSES PHYSICAL LOCATION AND CONDITION IS  
 25 RELEVANT TO THE DEFENDANT'S KNOWLEDGE IN THIS CASE

26 Although the United States does not intend to dwell upon the physical condition of the material  
 27 witnesses in this case, their location beneath the hood of the Ford F-250 vehicle at issue in this case,  
 28 their proximity to the engine, and physical condition is certainly relevant to the issue of whether the  
 Defendant in this case had the requisite knowledge of their presence in this alien smuggling case.

1 Accordingly, the Defendant's reliance on United States v. Gonzalez-Flores, 418 F.3d 1093 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir.  
2 2005), is misplaced as that case is factually distinguished.

3 In Gonzalez-Flores, the defendant "led a group of nearly two dozen people. . . through the  
4 desert and across the border" and, "at some point during the trek, the group ran out of water[.]" Id. at  
5 1096. Two teenage girls were in particularly bad shape upon discovery. When found by border patrol,  
6 both were suffering from "severe heat exhaustion and respiratory problems and were airlifted to a  
7 hospital." Id. During trial, a border patrol agent described finding the two girls who needed immediate  
8 and advanced medical care and the agent characterized the cause of the distress as "heat exhaustion  
9 turning into heatstroke" and testified that during the flight to the hospital one girl stopped breathing  
10 and required resuscitation. Although the district court admitted the testimony, the Ninth Circuit held  
11 that, "[b]ecause testimony about the girls' heat stroke does not go to any of the elements of the crime  
12 with which [defendant] was charged," the Ninth Circuit found that, "we must consider its probative  
13 value low." Id. at 1098.

14 The facts of this case – which involve the Defendant's efforts to smuggle the aliens into the  
15 United States hidden in his vehicle – are plainly distinguished. The United States anticipates that  
16 evidence and/or testimony regarding the material witnesses' condition will only be used for purposes  
17 of laying the factual foundation that may be used to contend that the knowledge element for both counts  
18 of the indictment in this case have been met, rather than to trigger an emotional response with the jury.  
19 See, e.g., United States v. Perry, 857 F.2d 1346, 1351 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1988)(admission of testimony used only  
20 to prove an element of the offense was not plain error). Accordingly, such limited references are  
21 relevant and not unduly prejudicial and such evidence should be permitted in this case.

IV

CONCLUSION

For the above stated reasons, the United States respectfully requests that Defendant's motions in limine be denied except where unopposed.

DATED: May 12, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

KAREN P. HEWITT  
United States Attorney

s/ Lawrence A. Casper  
LAWRENCE A. CASPER  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
United States of America  
Email: Lawrence.Casper@usdoj.gov

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

4 Plaintiff,

5 v.

6 JOSE ELIAS CAMACHO-MELENDEZ,

7 Defendant.  
8

) Criminal Case No. No. 08CR0724-WQH  
)  
)

) **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)

9 IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED THAT:

10 I, LAWRENCE A. CASPER, am a citizen of the United States and am at least eighteen years  
11 of age. My business address is 880 Front Street, Room 6293, San Diego, California 92101-8893.

12 I am not a party to the above-entitled action. I have caused service of UNITED STATES'  
13 RESPONSE AND OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTIONS IN LIMINE

14 on the following parties by electronically filing the foregoing with the Clerk of the District Court using  
its ECF System, which electronically notifies them.

15 Kasha Pollreisz, Esq., Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc.

16 I hereby certify that I have caused to be mailed the foregoing, by the United States Postal  
Service, to the following non-ECF participants on this case:

17 **None**

18 the last known address, at which place there is delivery service of mail from the United States Postal  
19 Service.

20 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on May 12,  
2008.

21 s/Lawrence A. Casper  
22 LAWRENCE A. CASPER  
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24  
25  
26  
27  
28